

**RECEIVED**

FEB - 4 2010

SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL CLUB  
 P.O. Box 643  
 Coudersport, PA 16915

RECEIVED

2010 FEB 12 PM 1:38

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

February 1, 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Environmental Quality Board  
 P.O. Box 8477  
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

**To Whom It May Concern:**

We would like to introduce ourselves. We are members of the Susquehannock Trail Club, founders and maintainers of the 85 mile hiking trail known as the STS (Susquehannock Trail System). The STS is located in the Susquehannock State Forest and northern section of the Sproul State Forest. Our club was organized in 1967 and now numbers more than 350 members. We have faithfully maintained and protected this Trail System since its beginning. It is one of DCNR-BOF hiking trails designated for hikers only and known as a Keystone Trail.

The STS is popular with hikers, backpackers and wildlife watchers who come here from many states. Our STC membership is faithful to its cause, to protect the trail and aid in the protection and conservation of our streams, wild lands and wildlife. Over the years we have worked closely with such well known persons as Dr. Maurice Goddard, Secretary of PA Forest and Waters now known as DCNR, Arthur Davis, Secretary of PA DER, John Oliver, Secretary of PA DCNR, and others dedicated to the wise use of our State Forest lands. Our club is a member of the KTA, dedicated to protecting and preserving trails to the hiking public.

The recent disclosure of DCNR-BOF leasing thousands of acres of state owned forest land to drilling companies for large sums of money to explore and drill deep in the ground searching for gas in what is known as the Marcellus Shale is of great concern to us. We are aware that drilling and fracturing, the necessary process to obtain the gas takes immense amounts of water. After the water obtained from wells, streams, rivers, reservoirs, for fracturing, it must be removed with its poisonous contaminants. We are aware that this brackish water to be disposed of goes back in the streams and becomes part of the flow again. Is it safe? Does the new DEP 95 water regulations provide clean water for our native brook trout and other fish and wildlife who make their homes in the streams? They must have pure water to survive. Mankind faces the same problem, our wells and water reservoirs cannot be contaminated with improper disposal of brackish water.

This is a problem that has to be addressed immediately before careless drillers take advantage of the situation and make "quick bucks" at the risk of the public losing the purity of our pristine streams and Potter County's drinking water. The people in the

lower counties also suffer the effects of loose restrictions. It is most important that DEP know exactly how much water is being removed from our streams and the condition of the water being used by the drillers is safe to be returned to the streams.

We see the drilling rigs and the tanker trucks traveling over our main highways every day and into the night, traffic that is hard on our highways, you can imagine what that heavy equipment is doing to our back roads. We, the public, need and use these roads and they are costly to maintain with limited budgets by our state and local agencies. Road building by drilling companies to drill sites has to be strictly controlled and limited for drilling purposes only. The loss of the "PA Wilds" is at stake.

Our Club offers its services to your personnel to help as "watch dogs" for violation of laws and regulations to keep our streams pure and our beloved forest land safe. We would be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

STS Committee  
Curt Weinhold  
Bob Bernhardt  
Wayne Baumann  
Wil Ahn, Sr., President STC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wil Ahn Sr.".